

Peter LISEC S.N. 09/850,064

~~placing the faces of the ends against one another; and
butt welding the ends together while moving the ends
towards one another until the edges touch one another.--~~

R E M A R K S

The application has been amended so as to place in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

At the outset, Applicant wishes to thank Primary Examiner Aftergut for the courtesies extended during the personal interview held on February 27, 2003 with the undersigned agent. The Examiner's careful attention to the application on that occasion is sincerely appreciated.

Claims 8-13 are present in the application.

Claim 8 has been amended.

Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of DE '793 and any one of EP 0 546 854 (EP '854), EP 0 662 389 (EP '389) or WO 88/06966 (WO '966) optionally further taking with LEMELSON 3,779,446. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite that the edges are produced on "the one surface comprising only the surface which will be the inner surface of the spacer inside the insulating glass". Bases for the amendment to claim 8 is found in Figures 2-4 of the drawings and page 4, line 12 - page 5, line 30 of the specification.

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At the interview, it was emphasized that none of the applied prior art references describe or suggest producing edges on "only the surface which will be the inner surface of the spacer inside the insulating glass".

In the processes described by EP '854, EP '389 and WO '966, a camfer is provided on the edges of tubular members but not on the outer surfaces of the tubular products.

Applicant further submits that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of DE '793, LEMELSON or their combination to produce edges on "only the surface which will be the inner surface of the spacer inside the insulating glass" as recited in amended claim 8 since none of the applied references provides any motivation for such production of edges.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 8-13 are patentably distinct over the admitted prior art, DE '793, EP '854, EP '393, WO '966, LEMELSON either alone or in any combination thereof.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or requests clarification of any of the above points, the Examiner may

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contact the undersigned agents so that this application may continue to be expeditiously advanced.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

-- 8. (amended) A process for joining the ends of hollow metal section strips or the ends of a hollow metal section strip which has been bent into a frame to one another to produce a spacer for insulating glass, the process comprising the steps of:

producing edges which extend over the width of [at least] one surface of the ends to be joined to one another and the edges are set back relative to the faces of the end, the [at least] one surface comprising only the surface which will be the inner surface of the spacer inside the insulating glass;

placing the faces of the ends against one another; and
butt welding the ends together while moving the ends towards one another until the edges touch one another.--